

## Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY  
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, GR, TU, GY

SUBJECT: SEN. ROBERT BYRD'S REMARKS ON CBS FACE THE  
NATION JULY 16  
REF: STATE 179631  
FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM TRANSCRIPT OF SEN. ROBERT BYRD  
ON CBS' FACE THE NATION JULY 16:

SEN BYRD: . . . AN EQUALLY SERIOUS PROBLEM, IN THE MINDS  
OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN AND  
OTHER LEADERS IN THOSE COUNTRIES, WAS THE TURKISH EMBARGO.  
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HERMAN: WELL, IF I MAY, THAT PUTS THE MONKEY A LITTLE  
BIT ON THE SENATE'S BACK, DOES IT NOT? SOME OF THESE  
ARE PROBLEMS THAT ARE STUCK IN CONGRESS RATHER THAN THE  
ADMINISTRATION.

SEN BYRD- WELL, YES, WE WILL BE VOTING ON THE REPEAL OF

THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO, PERHAPS WEEK AFTER NEXT, OR AT LEAST DEBATING IT.

ONES: HAVE THERE BEEN ANY DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT? CAN YOU  
JONES: HAVE THERE BEEN ANY DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT? CAN YOU  
NOW GET WHAT THE PRESIDENT WANTS?

SEN BYRD: I DON'T KNOW. OF COURSE, I WILL SUPPORT THE

REPEAL OF THE ARMS EMBARGO TO TURKEY. DURING MY VISITS TO THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AS I'VE INDICATED, THIS WAS A MATTER THAT WAS VERY MUCH ON THEIR MINDS; THEY'RE CONCERNED ABOUT THE DETERIORATION OF THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO, AND GENERAL HAIG SAYS THAT THE TURKISH AIR FORCE IS PERHAPS DOWN TO LESS THAN 50 PERCENT OF SERVICEABILITY. THIS IS BECAUSE THE TURKS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO CANNIBALIZE THEIR EQUIPMENT--THEIR AIRCRAFT AND THEIR ARMOR. THEY'RE DISASTROUSLY LOW ON SPARE PARTS; AND WITH AN ARMY OF 500,000 GROUND FORCES, WHICH TIES DOWN APPROXIMATELY 25 WARSAW PACT DIVISIONS ON THE TURKISH BORDER, THE TURKS CAN BE IN A VERY STRATEGIC POSITION TO PROTECT GREECE AND THE OTHER NATO COUNTRIES. AND OUR MILITARY EXPERTS AND OUR INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES, AND HERE, HAVE TOLD ME THAT IT'S VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE UNITED STATES TO BE ABLE TO REOPERATE (SIC) ITS FIVE INTELLIGENCE BASES IN TURKEY, WHICH ALLOWED IT TO MONITOR SOVIET EFFORTS TO  
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BUILD AND TO DEPLOY NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS. SO IN THE INTEREST OF GREECE, IN THE INTEREST OF NATO, AND IN OUR OWN INTEREST, I THINK THAT THE TURKISH EMBARGO SHOULD BE LIFTED.

HOWEVER, I THINK I SHOULD SAY THIS TOO--THAT WE MUST CONTINUE IN OUR EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM ON CYPRUS, AND WE MUST CONTINUE TO TRY TO HELP GREECE, BECAUSE NEITHER GREECE NOR TURKEY CAN MODERNIZE ITS ARMED FORCES AND LIVE UP TO ITS NATO COMMITMENTS WITHOUT OUR HELP.

HERMAN: SENATOR, YOUR REASONS ARE PERSUASIVE. ARE YOU GOING TO WIN?

SEN. BYRD: I THINK THAT THE VOTES ARE ESSENTIALLY THERE TO LIFT THE EMBARGO IN THE SENATE. I--

ANGEL: WHAT ABOUT IN THE HOUSE, SENATOR?

SEN BYRD: I CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE HOUSE.

SEN BYRD (NEAR THE END OF THE PROGRAM): MAY I SAY ONE  
OTHER THING ON THE TURKISH EMBARGO?

HERMAN: I WAS GOING TO TAKE YOU BACK TO FOREIGN POLICY,  
BUT GO AHEAD. (LAUGHTER)

SEN BYRD: WELL, I THINK THAT THE TURKS HAVE SHOWN FLEXI-  
BILITY, BUT I THINK THEY OUGHT TO DO MORE. FOR EXAMPLE,  
THE CITY OF VAROSHA WAS A GREEK CITY, AND IT IS NOW EMPTY

AND UNDER TURKISH MILITARY CONTROL. I'M TOLD THAT 35,000  
GREEKS COULD RETURN TO THAT CITY WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, OR  
MONTHS, AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE TURKS TURN THE CITY  
OVER TO U.N. ADMINISTRATION NOW. AND---  
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HERMAN: BE MORE FLEXIBLE IN CYPRUS.

SEN BYRD: YES, INDEED, AND ALLOW THE GREEKS TO -- INHABI-  
TANTS TO BEGIN TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND BUSINESSES.

CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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